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RMC

May 26, 1960 FILE

Dear Mr. Baldwin: 611.98/41460
⑧ 121.982/120/6698

On April 22, 1960 I sent you an interim reply to your letter of April 14, 1960 to Secretary Hester which enclosed a letter from Mrs. Donald S. Medcalf concerning the type of cooperation an Indonesian national, Mr. Danny A. S. Yap, reportedly received from the Agricultural Attaché at the American Embassy in Djakarta. A detailed report of this incident, prepared by the Charge d'Affaires of our Embassy in Djakarta, has now been received by the Department and is quoted in part below:

"The Embassy appreciates the opportunity to furnish information for a Department reply to the Honorable John F. Baldwin, Representative in Congress, Sixth District, concerning the alleged mistreatment of Mr. Danny A. S. Yap of Medan, Sumatra, Indonesia.

"Mr. Yap first contacted the Agricultural Attaché by letter, dated November 25, 1959. A copy of the letter is forwarded as Enclosure No. 1. The Agricultural Attaché replied to Mr. Yap on December 15, 1959. A copy of the reply is forwarded as Enclosure No. 2.

"About the same time Mr. Yap, en route to the Island of Sulawesi, called at the Office of the Agricultural Attaché in Djakarta. He received a friendly welcome and there ensued a long discussion that contained no rudeness, no bruseness, no discordant note whatsoever. Anyone acquainted with the U.S. Agricultural Attaché at this post, including no doubt Mr. Yap, would agree that any rudeness would be entirely out of character for him. On the other hand, the Agricultural Attaché expressed deep interest in and sympathy with improving the lot of the vegetable growers of Brastagi. He also explained in a most kindly way that his office does not have seeds or publications for

distribution

The Honorable
John F. Baldwin,
House of Representatives.

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Cat-16

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Authority NND 949570
By CP NARA Date 8/4/00

distribution nor funds for rural rehabilitation of Indonesian agriculture. The Agricultural Attaché explained that his office was concerned with the preparation of reports on Indonesian agriculture and promoting the sale of United States agricultural commodities in Indonesia but that it was not the function of his office to promote Indonesian agriculture. The Department of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia works with the U.S. International Cooperation Administration on promoting agriculture in Indonesia. (There is an ICA American Agricultural Extension Adviser stationed at Palembang, Sumatra, attached to the Indonesian Department of Agriculture.)

"Mr. Yap explained that he was a broker and commission man purchasing, marketing and exporting to Singapore the vegetables grown by the Brastagi farmers. English is not Mr. Yap's native tongue. He is of Chinese descent. Perhaps for the sake of emphasis and as a sign of "Americanization" he has used inaptly the terms "told me off" and "hand-outs" in a colloquial sense or as slang, since these two words do not apply in any way to the kindly, cooperative, considerate reception he received from the Agricultural Attaché. The Agricultural Attaché, in his willingness to cooperate, wrote to Washington for all the assistance possible within the purview of his office and without prior consultation with the Indonesian Government. The Agricultural Attaché maintained complete composure and consideration even with Mr. Yap's frequent threats to go to the "Russians" if the Americans would not help.

"On January 22, 1960, the Agricultural Attaché sent Mr. Yap a letter containing the information he had requested. A copy of the letter is forwarded as Enclosure No. 3, and a copy of Mr. Yap's reply, dated March 4, 1960, is forwarded as Enclosure No. 4. The third paragraph of Mr. Yap's letter continues his threat to turn to the USSR if the USA does not assist.

"Mr. Yap is a personable young man, and the Agricultural Attaché has had and will continue to have pleasant working relations with him. The letter contained in the Hanover College Alumni Newsletter is the first and only indication that Mr. Yap has not been "properly" treated. Mr. Yap has not expressed this to the Agricultural Attaché in either of their two very cordial visits nor is it expressed in either of Mr. Yap's copies of letters which are attached.

"The Agricultural Attaché, a native Californian and one of the three Agricultural Attachés from the University of California, is anxious to have the above facts brought to the attention of the Congressmen from the Sixth District, California."

Copies

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By GP NARA Date 8/4/00

-3-

Copies of the pertinent correspondence between our Agricultural Attaché and Mr. Yap are enclosed.

After reviewing the foregoing report from our Embassy, the Department of State and the Department of Agriculture are completely satisfied that our Agricultural Attaché in Djakarta was courteous and considerate in his discussions with Mr. Yap and afforded Mr. Yap all possible cooperation appropriate to the functions of his office.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Macomber, Jr.
Assistant Secretary

Enclosures:

1. Letter from Mr. Yap to Mr. Winberg, November 25, 1959.
2. Letter from Mr. Winberg to Mr. Yap, December 15, 1959.
3. Letter from Mr. Winberg to Mr. Yap, January 22, 1960.
4. Letter from Mr. Yap to Mr. Winberg, March 4, 1960.

FE-44

Clearance: Agriculture: FAS - Mr. L.W. Smith (cc) SPA - Mr. Emmons

FE:SPA:RHw:el:lrj
5/24/60

5/25/60
MAY 25 1960 P.M.
Copy to Mr. Work Agre
MAY 26 1960

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Authority NND 949570
By DP NARA Date 8/4/00

April 22, 1960

611.98/4-1460

CSBW

611.98/4-1460
X 121.982
120.16698

Dear Mr. Baldwin:

I have received your letter of April 14, 1960 to Secretary Herter, enclosing a letter from Mrs. Donald S. Medcalf concerning the type of cooperation an Indonesian national, Mr. Danny Yap, has received from the Agricultural Attaché at the American Embassy in Djakarta. We are asking our Embassy for its comments on this report. I shall communicate again with you as soon as the Embassy's comments are received.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Macomber, Jr.
Assistant Secretary

This document must be returned
to the RUEB Central File

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FE:SPA:RHWenzel:rej 4-20-60

The Honorable
John F. Baldwin,
House of Representatives.

611.98/4-1460
SAC EISCH
APR 21 1960 P.M.
APR 22 1960
Clearances:
SPA - Mr. Emmons
SPA - Miss Olmsted
Agriculture: FAS/Attache: L. M. Smith
(substance)

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 949570
By GP NARA Date 8/4/00

CONGRESSIONAL

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION
DEPARTMENTAL REGULATIONS REQUIRE THAT
AN ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGMENT BE MADE
WITHIN THREE DAYS

M-118
7-10-67

(See RP 152.4)

JOHN F. BALDWIN
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
6TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA
COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC WORKS
WASHINGTON ADDRESS:
ROOM 321
HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
PHONE: CAPITOL 4-3121
EXT. 5511

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
REPRESENTATIVE:
JACK MERCHANT
447 TENTH STREET
RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA
PHONE: BEACON 3-6343

SOLANO COUNTY
REPRESENTATIVE:
MRS. FRED BRUDERLIN
2 FLORIDA STREET
VALLEJO, CALIFORNIA
PHONE: MIDWAY 2-9923

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

April 14, 1960

asked and don't understand
ACTION
is assigned to

Speaker file
FE

OPR
file

The Honorable Christian A. Herter
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Herter:

*XR
121.982
120.16698*
I am enclosing a letter dated April 8, 1960, which I have received from my constituent, Mrs. Donald S. Medcalf, 1545 Kirker Pass Road, Concord, California. This letter is self-explanatory. I share Mrs. Medcalf's deep concern about the report made by Danny Yap, P.O. Box 2, Medan, Sumatra, Indonesia, as to the type of cooperation he has received from the Agricultural Attaché of the United States Embassy in Djakarta.

I should deeply appreciate your investigating this matter immediately and letting me know what steps can be taken to correct this type of action by our overseas representatives.

Sincerely yours,

J. F. Baldwin
JOHN F. BALDWIN
Representative in Congress
Sixth District

This Document must be Returned
to the RMR Central Files

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Enclosure
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Letter and enclosures, if any,
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Authority *ND 949570*
By *GP* NARA Date *8/4/00*

April 8, 1960.

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Mr. John Baldwin
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Years ago my husband and I graduated from Hanover College, a small Presbyterian college in Southern Indiana. Yesterday our alumni Newsletter was in our mail. In it is printed a letter from Danny Yap (P. O. Box 2; Medan, Sumatra, Indonesia) who graduated from Hanover in 1956. He is an Indonesian and has returned to his country with a fervid desire to help his people. I started to clip the letter and mail it to you, but I know so many people to whom I want to quote it, in the hope of securing some help for him, that I shall just type pertinent excerpts, and hope that you will be interested.

Danny writes: "For about three months I worked in Djakarta which is the capital of Indonesia with a population 3½ million, doing mainly newspaper work....Then I returned to my home....and am now helping the local population out by being an adviser to the Economic Reconstruction and Development Office of North Sumatra, working directly under the local military commander....To improve the crops I had to see the Agricultural Attaché of the U. S. Embassy in Djakarta. When I told him about my problem and how I would like to see the U. S. government help out these plain people in their fight against poverty....the man at the Embassy told me off and said that he would not give any hand outs. This was a shock to me....I was merely asking for sample seeds from the U. S. as an experimental project to see whether we can improve the crops of these people. Also that the Russian Embassy would be glad to help me with shiploads ~~of~~ of seeds if I requested it from them. I came to him because I thought this would do the U. S. good, but he did not appreciate my request. All I can say at this moment is that I am so glad that I have known the Americans as they are in their own natural habitat. If we have to judge the Americans around here then they are all or most of them with few exceptions called "The Ugly Americans".

There are a lot of things that could be done here. They have such a misconception of America. The America they picture over here is so different from what I have seen during the six years I was in the ~~meod~~ old U.S.A. You have been the nicest people to know and I am hoping that more foreign students should enjoy the same feeling I have towards your country.

Many offers reached me from the Communist party to write articles about your country and also urged me to do so and to include all kinds of unpleasant experiences I have had in America. I refuse to be a hypocrite. You have shown me kindness which I shall never forget.

xxxxxThere are many students here in Medan who come to me and request assistance in getting them to the U. S. to study. They always lack: 1. sponsors 2. travel expenses. 3. a few weeks in a private home before going off to college. They usually have all kinds of scholarships from many universities and colleges in the U. S. but these three things ~~usually~~ usually hinder them from going.

Some may have magazines which they are ready to throw away. Please send them to me for distribution here to fight Communist literature. I can use any except Time and Newsweek or U. S. World and News Report. I

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By GP NARA Date 8/4/00

I will do the trouble of distributing them around here to the villages and young peoples' centers.

We are fighting again~~s~~ t time. I am proud of my education in America.I am loyal to you because you are my friends, but without your help I am fighting a losing batt~~e~~ le....and besides that I do not get enough encouragement from the Americans over here."

So--. I know it is a big problem, and my first reaction was "it is too big for an individual". But if "individuals" don't do something, who will? So I call the letter to your attention. And a big box of magazines shall go immediately. And I can offer my home to a student. And if the hundreds of alum~~u~~ni who see the letter will each do a little-- maybe we can prove we aren't all "Ugly Americans."

It seems to me we would do better to spend less on "Foreign Aid" and more on aiding foreign students. Our "Foreign Aid" seems to bring us little but criticism, ~~communism~~ creeping socialism, and taxes, while our foreign students are our firm friends.

I think you are doing an outstanding job as Representative. If you need any help that I can give when election time rolls around, I'm available!

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Donald S. Medcalf
1545 Kirker Pass Rd.
Concord, Calif.

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Authority ND 949570
By DP NARA Date 8/4/00



DEPARTMENT OF STATE INSTRUCTION

2037

UNCLASSIFIED

(Security Classification)

2037

FOR RM/R USE ONLY 17

NO.: A-122 April 22, 1960

SUBJECT: Congressional Inquiry as to the Treatment Reportedly Accorded
an Indonesian National by the Agricultural Attaché,
American Embassy, Djakarta

TO: American Embassy, DJAKARTA

Representative John F. Baldwin has written to the Department expressing deep concern about a report transmitted by one of his constituents concerning the treatment allegedly accorded an Indonesian national by the Agricultural Attaché at the Embassy. The letter from Mr. Baldwin's constituent, which contains this report, is enclosed.

The Embassy is requested to submit as soon as possible its comments on this report for transmittal to Mr. Baldwin.

611-98/4-1460

HERTER

Enclosure: *at S*
/ Letter and enclosureDRAFTED BY:
FE:SPA:RHWenzel 4-20-60APPROVED BY:
FE:SPA - Arthur B. Emmons III *M*

CLEARANCES:

SPA/E - Miss Olmsted H
Agriculture:FAS/Attaches:L.M.Smith (substance)SAC E/S-CR
APR 21 1960 P.M.
APR 22 1960

611-98/4-1460

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Authority *MND 949570*
By *DP* NARA Date *8/4/00*

611.98/4-1960 CS/R A

April 28, 1960

Dear Mr. Brademas:

611.98/4-1960
X 12 16698
170 2
171.98
Thank you for calling to our attention in your letter of April 19, 1960, the item from the Hanover Alumni News supplied to you by Mrs. Irvin Swanson, which concerns the treatment of an Indonesian national, Mr. Danny Yap, by the Agricultural Attaché at the American Embassy at Djakarta.

We have sent a copy of Mr. Yap's report to the Embassy at Djakarta and have asked for the Embassy's comments on the reported discussion between Mr. Yap and the Agricultural Attaché. I shall write to you again as soon as the Embassy's report is received.

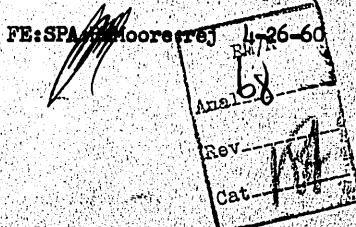
If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Macomber, Jr.
Assistant Secretary

This Document must be returned to the RMR Central Files

The Honorable
John Brademas,
House of Representatives.



Clearances: SPA Mr. Emmons MSL

TS

APR 27 1960 A.M.
APR 28 1960

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Authority NND 949570
By NARA Date 8/4/00

RADEMAS
3d Dist., INDIANA

COMMITTEE:
EDUCATION AND LABOR
SUBCOMMITTEE:
GENERAL EDUCATION

PHOTO COPY SENT
TO H. B. SWANSON

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

April 19, 1960

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:
MICHAEL MONROEY

STAFF:
ANNE JORDANICH
AGNES RIBARICH
EDNA J. TURNER
LOUISE W. GREEN
FRED W. WEGNER, JR.

ACTION
is assigned to

FE

OPR

Mr. William B. McComber, Jr.
Assistant Secretary in charge of
Congressional Relations
Department of State
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Bill:

I have received the enclosed letter, taken
from a copy of the Hanover Alumni News, from a constituent,
Mrs. Irvin Swanson of La Porte, Indiana, and I was so
disturbed over the letter that I am sending it on to you
with the request that you bring it to the attention of
the proper persons in the Department of State.

I would appreciate your comments.

Very best wishes.

Sincerely,

JOHN BRADEMAS
Member of Congress

encl.

RADEMAS AFFAIRS

FEISPA-R. W. HOOKE

22 APR 1960

LETTER SENT 4-26-60

Letter and enclosures, if any,
microfilmed by RMF

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RECORDED IN THE BUREAU
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Authority NND 949570
By GP NARA Date 8/4/00

Vol. XX, No. 2, Hanover Alumni News
January 1966
Bruce C. Bowers

A Letter to the Editor From Danny Yap '56

Danny U.S. Yap Post Office Box 2, Medan, Sumatra, Indonesia

Mr. William H. Nagel
Hanover College Alumni Association
Hanover College
Hanover, Indiana, U.S.A.

January 15, 1966

Dear Mr. Nagel:

It was quite a surprise to find your letter waiting for me when I returned from Singapore. It is very good to hear from you, for I thought that the alumni association would not care to contact an alumnus who is so far away from Hanover. It does, in a way, seem too far to keep close contact with all my friends in the U.S. but I have not forgotten them. For how they treated me during those years when we were in Hanover together was something that money cannot buy and convinced me how nice the Americans could be as compared with those who come over here.

Since my return to my country about one year ago, after a two-year stay in Denver, where I received my Master of Public Administration from Denver University, I have been island hopping all the time. At the present I am supposed to spend one week in Singapore, one week in Djakarta and two weeks at home per month. That will leave me enough time for a breather.

For about three months I worked in Djakarta which is the capital of Indonesia with a population of 12 million, doing mainly newspaper work, one way of knowing the country well and also paving a way for a political career. Then I returned to my home town which is on another island and am now helping the local population out by being an adviser to the Economic Reconstruction and Development Office of North Sumatra, working directly under the local military commander. This is a job which does not pay so I decided to do some business on the side so that I will be able to live. I am now exporting all kinds of things to Malaya. The latest are vegetables and all kinds of farm products. I live in one way because I am earning foreign exchange for my country and on the other hand I am with the plain people of the mountains most of the time. They are so simple and have never known a good life as I have. This gives me a chance to help them to improve themselves and become useful to their country which is, of course, also my country.

To improve their crops I had to see the Agricultural Attaché of the U.S. Embassy in Djakarta. When I told him about my problem and how I would like to see the U.S. government help out these plain people in their fight against poverty . . . the man at the Embassy told me off and said that he would not give any *hand outs*. This was a shock to me, for we are a proud people who would fight to gain our independence with blood. I told him that he should be more careful with his words because they might cause an international incident. I did not ask for any hand outs at all. I was merely asking for sample seeds from the U.S. as an experimental project to see whether we can improve the crops of these people. Also that the Russian Embassy would be glad to help me with shiploads full of seeds if I requested it from them. I came to him because I thought this would do the U.S. good, but he did not appreciate my request. All I can say at this moment is that I am so glad that I have known the Americans as they are in their own natural habitat. If we have to judge the Americans around here then they are all or most of them with few exceptions called "The Ugly Americans." That was one of the unpleasant tasks I had to perform for this simple people. I still promised them that I will get them their seed.

There are a lot of things that could be done here. They have such a misconception of America. The America they picture over here is so different from what I have seen during the six years I was in the good old U.S.A. You have been the nicest people to know and I am hoping that more foreign students should enjoy the same feeling I have towards your country.

Many offers reached me from the Communist's party to write articles about your country and also urged me to do so and to include all kinds of unpleasant experiences I have had in America. I refuse to be a hypocrite. You have shown me kindness which I shall never forget.

If the alumni of Hanover College read this account of myself they must also be aware of the many ways they could help in the respect of doing good for America. There are many students here in Medan who come to me and request assistance in getting them to the U.S. to study. They always lack: 1. sponsors, 2. travel expenses, 3. a few weeks in a private home before going off to college. They usually have all kinds of scholarships from many universities and colleges in the U.S., but these three things usually hinder them from going.

I would like to see many of them experience the same things, so that they will not be subjected to Communist propaganda and believe in it. Many of them turn to the Communist countries where they can obtain full travel grants and scholarships.

Some alumni may have magazines which they are ready to throw away. Please send them to me for distribution here to fight Communist literature. I can use any magazine except Time and Newsweek or U.S. World and News Report. I will do the trouble of distributing them around here to the villages and young people's centers.

We are fighting against time. I am proud of my education in America. I am proud to belong to a fraternity . . . but I must share that. Give the others a chance to feel the same way I do now—and return to help out our own country in raising the standard of living. I do not think I want to leave this country again, because I am really needed around here. I am loyal to you because you are my friends, but without your help I am fighting a losing battle—and besides that I do not get enough encouragement from the Americans over here.

Danny Yap

There is a tendency on the part of all of us to think of children as we saw them last. How much this applies to children of the Faculty!



Only a few short years ago Bruce Bowers, oldest of the three sons of Dr. and Mrs. Rohr Bowers, was selling magazines and magazine subscriptions, running errands on the campus, etc. Now he is a Senior, a voting man at Mount Hermon School, Mt. Hermon, Mass. The *Hermonite*, publication of that institution, has this to say about Bruce in two of its issues, November 7 and November 21:

BRIECE C. BOWERS '18 '60

CLIFFORD SCHOLAR

Sunday dinner, Nov. 4, was highlighted by the award of this year's Henry F. Cutler Scholarship to Bruce C. Bowers.

Bruce, a four-year student at Mount Hermon, comes from Hanover, Indiana. He has consistently maintained an Honor Roll average. This year he is the floor officer on First South. In addition to singing first tenor in the choir, he is a Varsity athlete in both soccer and track.

The Henry F. Cutler scholarship was established in 1946 by the Alumni Association in honor of Dr. Cutler, headmaster of Mount Hermon from 1890 through 1932. It is awarded annually by vote of the faculty to that scholarship student entering his senior year who they feel best exemplifies the qualities of character, principle and intellect personified by Dr. Cutler.

Bruce C. Bowers was listed as one of the 37 seniors at Mount Hermon who received Letters of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Committee. These boys were so honored because of their outstanding work on the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

March Assembly Program

Wed., Mar. 2—Chapel: The Reverend Gerald L. Clapaddle, Methodist Church, Indianapolis, Ind.
Fri., Mar. 4—Mr. Frank Blanning, "The Hanover Image," HANOVER COLLEGE INSTITUTE
Mon., Mar. 14—Young President's Organization, Inc., Panel Discussion
Wed., Mar. 16—Chapel: The Reverend Dr. Leonard Kramer.
Fri., Mar. 18—Greek Week, Dr. Emily Taylor, Dean, University of Kansas.
Mon., Mar. 21—Butler University Wind Ensemble.
Wed., Mar. 23—Chapel: The Reverend Arthur Hall, Central Presbyterian Church, Louisville, Ky.
Thurs., Mar. 24—PAF
Mon., Mar. 28—"The Master of Those Who Know" Symposium.
Wed., Mar. 30—Chapel: The Reverend Irving R. Phillips, Calvary Presbyterian Church, Logansport, Ind.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 949570
By GP NARA Date 8/4/00

May 26, 1960 FILE

Dear Mr. Brademas:

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in

The Honorable
John Brademas,
House of Representatives.

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Authority NND 949570
By GP NARA Date 8/4/00

in Indonesia. (There is an ICA American Agricultural Extension Adviser stationed at Palembang, Sumatra, attached to the Indonesian Department of Agriculture.)

"Mr. Yap explained that he was a broker and commission man purchasing, marketing and exporting to Singapore the vegetables grown by the Brastagi farmers. English is not Mr. Yap's native tongue. He is of Chinese descent. Perhaps for the sake of emphasis and as a sign of "Americanization" he has used inaptly the terms "told me off" and "handouts" in a colloquial sense or as slang, since these two words do not apply in any way to the kindly, cooperative, considerate reception he received from the Agricultural Attaché. The Agricultural Attaché, in his willingness to cooperate, wrote to Washington for all the assistance possible within the purview of his office and without prior consultation with the Indonesian Government. The Agricultural Attaché maintained complete composure and consideration even with Mr. Yap's frequent threats to go to the "Russians" if the Americans would not help.

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"Mr. Yap is a personable young man, and the Agricultural Attaché has had and will continue to have pleasant working relations with him. The letter contained in the Hanover College Alumni Newsletter is the first and only indication that Mr. Yap has not been "properly" treated. Mr. Yap has not expressed this to the Agricultural Attaché in either of their two very cordial visits nor is it expressed in either of Mr. Yap's copies of letters which are attached."

Copies of the pertinent correspondence between our Agricultural Attaché and Mr. Yap are enclosed.

After reviewing the foregoing report from our Embassy, the Department of State and the Department of Agriculture are completely satisfied that our Agricultural Attaché in Djakarta was courteous and considerate in his discussions with Mr. Yap and afforded Mr. Yap all possible cooperation

appropriate

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Authority NID 949570
By CD NARA Date 8/4/00

-3-

appropriate to the functions of his office.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Macomber, Jr.
Assistant Secretary

Enclosures:

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2. Letter from Mr. Winberg to Mr. Yap, December 15, 1959.
3. Letter from Mr. Winberg to Mr. Yap, January 22, 1960.
4. Letter from Mr. Yap to Mr. Winberg, March 4, 1960.

Clearance: Agriculture: FAS - Mr. L. A. Smith (cc)

SPA - Mr. Emmons *ML*

FE

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5/24/60

S/SCR
MAY 25 1960 P.M.
MAY 26 1960

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Authority NND 949570
By GP NARA Date 8/4/00

INCOMING AIRGRAM

Department of State

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OFFICIAL USE ONLY
Classification

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PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

Date Sent: April 24, 1960
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AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY AND INDONESIA

During the Easter holidays the National Weekly VRIJ NEDERLAND published a long editorial written by W. L. Oltmus. Mr. Oltmus is a Dutch citizen who is said to be a personal friend of Sukarno and lectures extensively in the United States. He is a controversial figure and in some Dutch circles was considered a "traitor" because of his championship of the Indonesian national cause. Dutch official circles would hardly consider him reliable, nonetheless there are significant elements within the conservative Dutch business circles which are said to have favored in the past his point of view that it would be better for the Netherlands to sacrifice New Guinea on the assumption that this would improve Dutch business relations with Indonesia. Mr. Oltmus made several attempts to interview the Ambassador and stated that he was en route to Vienna where he expected to "spend some time on Easter Sunday with his close friend Sukarno." The editorial is carried under the title "America and Political Schizophrenia" and begins as follows:

Much as been said but little has been done about setting up an official committee of enquiry to investigate what has gone wrong since 1945 in the development of Indonesian-Dutch relations. Generally speaking it is felt that a thorough, expert enquiry should be made into what Jacques de Kadt once called "the tragedy of lost chances." In some circles speculation even is rife that such an enquiry may prove to the disadvantage of the Socialists, and that as a result it is hoped that the number of subscribers to a certain daily may increase. Also the recently published memoires of Professor Schermerhorn again highlight the urgency and importance of the establishment of a committee of enquiry. Especially since his views on political failures in Indonesia could not have been published in the original form, because in the Netherlands of today certain political leaders would be robbed of much

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of their glory. While there is much hemming and hawing in the Netherlands about an official report on the developments which have contributed towards the current sad impasse between Djakarta and The Hague, the Americans are doing the retrospective work, which we allow to be taken out of our own hands.

Specialists of the Institute for Scientific Research of the John Hopkins University in Washington recently published a study on the American foreign policy in which a special chapter was devoted to "The United States and colonial problems." In this historical review the dispute between Indonesia and the Netherlands takes pride of place. Now Second Chamber member Scheps may remark that he considers the attitude of the Washington with regard to Indonesia increasingly incomprehensible (he even talks of a feeling of anti-Americanism) but to me it seems advisable to look at the Indonesian-Dutch debacle from the American point of view. It should be established at the outset that the Netherlands could learn a good deal from unsparing criticism on its own failures, which are so freely offered in virtually all new publications on the American foreign policy.

At the end of World War II the government in Washington saw itself placed before a "contradiction in terminus." On the one hand it felt strongly tied, politically, economically and militarily to the traditional West-European colonial powers, while on the other hand the historical ideology and sympathy of the American people clearly sided with the Afro-Asiatic nations revolt against Western colonialism. America saw itself confronted by three power blocs:

1. The colonial powers which suffered from a chronic shortage of raw materials and dollars and which, by means of extensive arguments, tried to make it clear to Washington that it would be in the interest of the entire free world if they (England, France, Belgium, Portugal, Spain and the Netherlands) could, "for the time being," keep a finger in the pie in the revolutionary world of Asia and Africa with its strategical materials such as oil, rubber, tin, palmoil and uranium.

2. The Asiatic-African and now also several Latin-American powers which demanded an immediate end to all Western political, economic and military exploitation and subjugation. The first massive meeting of Afri-Asiatic nations was held in January 1949 in New Delhi, which was attended by 19 nations to discuss the Netherlands actions in Indonesia. Premier Nehru stated on that occasion "that as long as colonialism in any form continued to Asia and Africa, there would be cause for conflict and world peace would be endangered..."

3. The Communist countries which are doing everything in their power to make of the United States, as an ally of the West European colonial powers, a laughing stock in the eyes of the Afro-Asiatic world.

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Confronted with these three power blocs the dilemma of the American policy since 1945 can be called monumental. For, American interests and American political responsibility such as the defense of Western democracy lay with Western Europe as well as the young nations of Asia and Africa. Neither ~~with~~ with regard to India, Indonesia, Japan, Egypt or Ghana, nor with respect to England, France, Belgium, Portugal, Spain and the Netherlands could Washington afford to take an unclear political position.

In the meantime the Russians managed to make a clever use of this difficult international position of America. Nervously and uncertain of itself the American State Department repeatedly changed its policy vis-a-vis Asia and Africa—a vacillating and divided policy which in political commentaries in this country characteristically was dubbed "political schizophrenia." Examples of this policy can be seen in the attitude of the American government in conflicts like Indonesia, Netherlands New Guinea, Suez, Algeria, and Indo-China.

In 1945 President Franklin D. Roosevelt had the reputation of being sharply anti-colonial. With regard to the French position in South-East Asia he reportedly said "the French have sucked Indo-China dry for many years."

Elliott Roosevelt tells the story of how the American President reportedly pointed out to Queen Wilhelmina the naked fact that American lives and arms had liberated South-East Asia from the Japanese occupier and that he did not see why West-European nations did not emulate the example of the United States which granted independence to the Philippines.

Under Roosevelt's influence the sentence stating "the rights of all nations ~~to~~ to choose their own form of government will be guaranteed" was written into the Atlantic Charter. Roosevelt also talked of an archaic feudal British colonialism, which reportedly enraged Churchill and caused him to remark "Mr. President, to all appearances you are about to give away the British Empire."

The United States was inspired by a strong anti-colonialism but saw no possibility of expressing this conviction in a justifiable policy. Cordell Hull Roosevelt's Secretary of State, wrote "we could not afford to bring too much pressure to bear upon our European allies in the matter of South-East Asia, with a view to the close cooperation we were seeking with those countries in Western Europe. How could we thwart those countries in the Orient and then expect them to cooperate with us in Europe?"

Hence Washington was prepared to have consideration for certain West-European interests in Asia and Africa in exchange for closer cooperation in Western Europe. And the formation of a European bloc incidentally tended to remove America's deep felt fear of Soviet Expansion. That conversely the very same thing happened

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becomes clear when reading the memoires of Charles De Gaulle in which he writes that the Netherlands postponed the diplomatic recognition of the provisional French government (June 1944) in order to curry favor with Washington "in the hope that the Americans would take more account of the Netherlands wishes in Indonesia." The only difference is more that the United States carried on a many-sided foreign policy from what at that time was an unprecedented position of strength and power, while the colonial powers merely tried to save themselves from total bankruptcy.

The consequences of the dual American policy have been disastrous for all parties concerned, and the result was that American and Western interests virtually every time got the worst of it while the Soviets were watching their chance. On October 31, 1956 (Robert C. Good of the John Hopkins Institute wrote) when the French and British were about to bombard Ismailia and Port Said, President Eisenhower remarked that in his opinion France and England were making a serious mistake. Three days later Vice-President Nixon emphasized this point by remarking that for the first time in history the United States was pursuing an independent policy in Asia and Africa, which all said and done was the refection of the anti-colonial American tradition. The Asiatic and African nations jumped sky-high. The French press on the other hand denounced the pro-Nasser policy of the United States and referred to a new Moscow-Cairo-Washington monster alliance.... A few weeks later, during the debate on the Algerian colonial issue in the political commission of the United Nations in New York the American representative Cabot Lodge was to talk of "American non-intervention in a purely French affair." This time the French press reacted in a jubilant tone and Le Monde expressed the elated feelings of Paris by writing that America had acted as a perfect ally of France for which public opinion in France would feel grateful. ...But the numerous Asiatic-African nations which had given their unqualified support to the resolution for an independent Algeria once again felt deeply disappointed in the foreign policy of the United States, New Delhi, Accra and Cairo were at a loss what to make of Washington's policy.

Ever since World War II the United States has always tried to play the part of honest mediator in colonial conflicts, whereby attempts were made to spare the feelings of both parties. This "colorless" policy was to fail on all fronts, also because it was in flagrant contradiction with the genuine American conviction and in no respect corresponded with the leadership which should have been inherent to America's position of power. As always America tried to appease too many parties, by which it achieved most undesirable results, because it enabled Khrushchev and others to play the part of the "third dog running away with the bone."

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In conclusion the writer suggests, "a commission of enquiry should be set up to determine what the consequences have been or will be of a policy such as pursued in 1949, when the United States threatened the then-Minister of Foreign Affairs Stikker that all dollar loans under the Marshall Plan would be suspended unless the Netherlands immediately stopped its police actions in Indonesia...but nevertheless the United States (according to the policy currently pursued and so warmly applauded by Ambassador Van Riojen) continues to give secret support to the Netherlands administration over the Papuas while the specific national wishes of Indonesia are being ignored by all Western nations."

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FROM :	AMERICAN EMBASSY, DJAKARTA																		
TO :	THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.																		
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SUBJECT: Congressional Inquiry as to the Treatment Reportedly Accorded an Indonesian National by the Agricultural Attaché, American Embassy, Djakarta.																			

11 The Embassy appreciates the opportunity to furnish information for a Department reply to the Honorable John F. Baldwin, Representative in Congress, Sixth District, concerning the alleged mistreatment of Mr. Danny A. S. Yap of Medan, Sumatra, Indonesia.

Mr. Yap first contacted the Agricultural Attaché by letter, dated November 25, 1959. A copy of the letter is forwarded as Enclosure No. 1. The Agricultural Attaché replied to Mr. Yap on December 15, 1959. A copy of the reply is forwarded as Enclosure No. 2.

About the same time Mr. Yap, en route to the Island of Sulawesi, called at the Office of the Agricultural Attaché in Djakarta. He received a friendly welcome and there ensued a long discussion that contained no rudeness, no briskness, no discordant note whatsoever. Anyone acquainted with the U. S. Agricultural Attaché at this post, including no doubt Mr. Yap, would agree that any rudeness would be entirely out of character for him. On the other hand, the Agricultural Attaché expressed deep interest in and sympathy with improving the lot of the vegetable growers of Brastagi. He also explained in a most kindly way that his office does not have seeds or publications for distribution nor funds for rural rehabilitation of Indonesian agriculture. The Agricultural Attaché explained that his office was concerned with the preparation of reports on Indonesian agriculture and promoting the sale of United States agricultural commodities in Indonesia but that it was not the function of his office to promote Indonesian agriculture. The Department of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia works with the U. S. International Cooperation Administration on promoting agriculture in Indonesia. (There is an ICA American Agricultural Extension Adviser stationed at Palembang, Sumatra, attached to the Indonesian Department of Agriculture.)

Mr. Yap explained that he was a broker and commission man purchasing, marketing and exporting to Singapore the vegetables grown by the Brastagi farmers. English is not Mr. Yap's native tongue. He is of Chinese descent. Perhaps for the sake of emphasis and as a sign of "Americanization" he has used inaptly the terms "told me off" and "handouts" in a colloquial sense or as slang, since these two words do not apply in any way to the kindly, cooperative, considerate reception he received from the Agricultural Attaché. The Agricultural Attaché, in his willingness to cooperate, wrote to Washington for all the assistance possible within the purview of his office and without prior consultation with the Indonesian Government. The

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Encl. No.
Desp. No. 970
From DJAKARTA

Agricultural Attaché maintained complete composure and consideration even with Mr. Yap's frequent threats to go to the "Russians" if the Americans would not help.

On January 22, 1960, the Agricultural Attaché sent Mr. Yap a letter containing the information he had requested. A copy of the letter is forwarded as Enclosure No. 3, and a copy of Mr. Yap's reply, dated March 4, 1960, is forwarded as Enclosure No. 4. The third paragraph of Mr. Yap's letter continues his threat to turn to the USSR if the USA does not assist. [The paragraph in Mr. Yap's letter would tend to shed some doubt on the sincerity of the sentiments contained in his letter to his Alumni paper. It is sincerely hoped that, in his seeming lack of maturity and extreme enthusiasm, he does not also mislead the farmers of Brastagi.] *DM/T*

Mr. Yap is a personable young man, and the Agricultural Attaché has had and will continue to have pleasant working relations with him. The letter contained in the Hanover College Alumni Newsletter is the first and only indication that Mr. Yap has not been "properly" treated. Mr. Yap has not expressed this to the Agricultural Attaché in either of their two very cordial visits nor is it expressed in either of Mr. Yap's copies of letters which are attached.

The Agricultural Attaché, a native Californian and one of the three Agricultural Attachés from the University of California, is anxious to have the above facts brought to the attention of the Congressman from the Sixth District, California.

The Charge d'Affaires ad interim would like to solicit the cooperation of the Representative from the Sixth California District in helping to dispel the misinformation concerning attitudes of U. S. overseas personnel maliciously spread among the American public by the authors of "The Ugly American". *DM/T*

John W. Henderson
John W. Henderson
Charge d'Affaires ad interim

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Page 1 of 1
Encl. No. 1
Desp. No. 970
From DJAKARTA

C O P Y

Danny A. S. Yap, Post Office Box 2, Medan, Sumatra.

November 25, 1959

Mr. C. Winberg
Agricultural Attaché
American Embassy
Medan Merdeka Selatan
Djakarta.

Dear Mr. Winberg:

I do not think that I have ever met you although I had quite a bit of connections with your predecessor Dr. Varney while I was working in Djakarta. As I am now working with the reconstruction of North Sumatra recently I came across vegetable growers of Brastagi a mountain resort near Medan. Mr. Robert Linquist the local principal officer of the American Consulate told me to write you about the problem I have with the vegetable growers in Brastagi.

I told these simple people of this area about my experiences with the big Idaho potatoes while I was studying in the U. S. They were amazed and curious and wanted to get hold of the seed for an experiment. I told them I will see what can be done. When I met Mr. Linquist he told me to write to you directly and maybe you could help me out.

As this project of improving the crops does not only applies to potatoes although this is still the first thing they want to get hold of, I hope that you will be able to tell me where to write and if possible the persons I should contact in getting hold of these seeds for the growers. It may mean a livelihood for them as they export these vegetables to Singapore where Foreign Exchange is being earned for North Sumatra in their program of reconstruction.

It will be good and indirect way of showing that the Americans are ready to help them with their project in improving their crops. I am hoping for the best, maybe if we are lucky enough we will have half the size of the Idaho potatoes growing here on volcanic soil in the mountains of Indonesia.

Hoping to hear from you very soon on the above said project.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

/s/ Danny A. S. Yap

Danny A. S. Yap

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Encl. No. 2
Desp. No. 970
From DJAKARTA

C O P Y

American Embassy
Djakarta, Indonesia
December 15, 1959

Mr. Danny A. S. Yap
Post Office Box 2
Medan
Sumatra

Dear Mr. Yap,

This is in reply to your letter of November 25, 1959 re potato seed or seed potato for experimental purposes on the farms around Brastagi. I have requested the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington to send me the names and addresses of several potato seed or seed potato suppliers and when these are received I will forward them to you.

Past experience has shown that it is best for those requesting seed to deal directly with commercial seed suppliers in the US that have the latest improved varieties and can supply what will most nearly meet the requirements of climate, soil, moisture, growing season, pests, diseases, etc. found in the area. You should then give all this information to the seed suppliers.

As soon as I receive the names and addresses I will forward them to you.

Sincerely yours,

Carl O. Winberg
Agricultural Attaché

cc: Mr. Lingquist
AMConsulate, Medan

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Encl. No. 3
Desp. No. 970
From DJAKARTA

C O P Y

American Embassy
Djakarta, Indonesia
January 22, 1960

Mr. Danny A. S. Yap
Post Office Box 2
Medan, Sumatra

Dear Mr. Yap:

I forwarded your request for information on seed potatoes to the Foreign Agricultural Service of the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington and they have now informed me that your request has been given to the National Potato Council.

One of the officials of the Fruit and Vegetable Division of the Foreign Agricultural Service questioned whether the Russet Burbank potatoes that are grown in Idaho would be productive under Sumatran growing conditions. He further states that Indonesia would have to purchase seed potatoes each year if a commercial crop is planned. If such is a possibility of developing a market for U. S. seed potatoes in Sumatra, it may be possible to obtain a few samples of seed potatoes from the Agricultural Research Service at Beltsville, Maryland. It is believed that only four tubers of each variety could be made available but with the proviso that they be used in an experiment station. Please let me know if such an experiment station is available - a station preferably under the Department of Agriculture in Sumatra.

Sincerely yours,

Carl O. Winberg
Agricultural Attaché

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Page 1 of
End. No. 4
Desp. No. 970
From DJAKARTA

C O P Y

Danny A. S. Yap
P. O. Box 2
Medan, Sumatra

March 4, 1960.

Mr. Carl O. Winberg
Agriculture Attaché
American Embassy
Djakarta.

Dear Mr. Winberg:

I was so surprised to find your letter waiting for me when I returned to Medan after being away for around 6 weeks.

I hope that I have not inconvenienced you in one way or another with the request of the simple people of Brastagi. We would be glad to receive the samples you mentioned in your letter to me. However, I will have to tell you beforehand that this seed will not be grown in an experiment station under the Department of Agriculture. I also would like to emphasize that after fruitless appeal to the Dept. of Agriculture in respect of the much needed seed they turned to me. This does not include only potato seed but also other seeds such as that of all kinds of vegetables.

The Embassy of the U.S.S.R. is very much interested in our project. They have already tried to send someone here from their staff to look around for possible assistance. We are expecting him here within two or three weeks after the big occasion of their Premier's visit to this country.

I would like to hear again from you on the above request. If you do not think that it will work out then I will turn to the others for assistance as we are very much in need for seeds. Please do not think that Indonesia only consist of the island of Java.

Thank you and until I hear from you again,

I remain,

Yours very truly

Danny A. S. Yap

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287 Appointment scheduled May 6 at 9:45 a.m. (U/PR to mj) *Eason notified*
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Suggested Appointment for Ambassador Howard P. Jones, American Ambassador to Indonesia

Ambassador Jones will be on consultation in Washington until May 11. He has expressed a desire to call on you and I believe it would be most useful for you to receive him if at all possible, preferably between now and May 7.

Ambassador Jones' report on conditions in Indonesia and on the state of United States-Indonesian relations would be of interest at any time, since Indonesia is one of the key countries of Asia and one of the principal neutralist countries of the world.

However, a report on Indonesia should be of particular interest at this time. The political situation in that country is marked by great tension, with President Sukarno off on a global trip (he is scheduled to make brief stopovers in Puerto Rico, San Francisco and Honolulu during May) and the confrontation of pro and anti-Communist forces in Indonesia becoming more and more pronounced. The outcome of these political tensions in Indonesia has great significance for the future of United States-Indonesian relations.

Note
Howard P.
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Howard
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/s/ Loy W. Henderson

Acting Secretary

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